



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Texas Senate District 29 Environmental Excellence Recognition Program takes place Saturday, April 20**

***Awards honor leadership, innovation, excellence, education and research, as well as lifetime achievement in environmental advocacy***

El Paso- The first Environmental Excellence Recognition Program (EERP) awards, a new legacy program initiated by state Sen. José Rodríguez's Senate District 29 Environment Advisory Committee (EAC), will be presented at a ceremony in conjunction with the City of El Paso Environmental Services Department's Earth Day event taking place April 20, 2019, in Downtown El Paso.

"The goal of the EERP is to identify, articulate and strengthen a regional culture of conservation, preservation and best practices for the environment," said state Sen. Rodríguez. "The program will create an archive of leading projects, practices, and actors in the field, hopefully inspiring us all to do more in our areas of influence."

The categories of recognition are: Innovation, Leadership, Excellence, Education and Research. The EERP will also honor one individual each year for lifetime achievement in furthering environmental issues in the community. The program defines an environmental project as an activity directly related to the promotion, protection, improvement, conservation, stewardship or benefit of natural resources and the environment, which are related to the following areas of interest: air quality, water quality, waste management, remediation of affected properties, recycling, land preservation, sustainable food systems, building and infrastructure design and development, and transportation.

EERP environmental projects will be recognized every April at an Earth Day event.

"I continue to be amazed by the caring, kind-hearted people in our community who truly want to make a difference and reduce our negative impact on the environment. I'm so thankful we can recognize their efforts and elevate their work so they can inspire others to make positive change," said Lauren Baldwin,

principal in the Creosote Collaborative, an El Paso-based urban planning, design, and sustainability consulting firm. Baldwin served as chairwoman of the EERP Review Panel.

The Senate District 29 EAC, which conceived the project, is one of seven committees the Senator's office has convened to suggest legislation, engage in discussions that empower the community to have a role in policy change, and execute initiatives and events.

This year the EERP takes place on the same day as the City of El Paso Environmental Services Department's 9th Annual Earth Day Celebration, Saturday, April 20, 2019. The EERP awards ceremony will be from 8:30-10 a.m. at the El Paso Community Foundation Room, 333 N. Oregon. The Earth Day event will be 9-2 at San Jacinto Plaza. Both events are free to the public.

"It has been both exciting and rewarding to have this chance to recognize worthy endeavors in the advancement of environmental issues in our community and to be able to be a part of a cooperative effort between local and state level organizations in making this program and event happen. For the first time we will be able to not only highlight environmental projects worthy of recognition, but will maintain an archive of these projects for future reference and inspiration," said Karl Rimkus, chairman of the EAC and Operations Manager, City of El Paso Environmental Services Department.

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*José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Agriculture (Vice Chair), Transportation, Natural Resources and Economic Development, and Water and Rural Affairs.*